

## Myth or Fact: Are babies born addicted?

Babies aren't technically born "addicted" to drugs, since they can't engage in compulsive drug seeking or continued use despite harmful consequences, hallmark behaviors of an addiction disorder. However, newborns can be physically dependent on opioids, and go into withdrawal, just like adults. (National Institutes of Health, *Heal Initiative*)

Here are some helpful resources on the topic:

<https://ncpoep.org/guidance-document/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-overview/neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-nas/>

<https://www.stanfordchildrens.org/en/topic/default?id=neonatal-abstinence-syndrome-90-P02387>

<https://heal.nih.gov/news/stories/neonatal-opioid-withdrawal-syndrome#:~:text=Babies%20aren't%20technically%20born,into%20withdrawal%2C%20just%20like%20adults.>